# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

INCIDENT: Deputy Involved Non-Hit Shooting

IAB FILE NUMBER: SH 2462080

URN#: 918-11704-2826-151

DATE/TIME: August 17, 2018, 2318 hours

LOCATION: 900 North Thorson Avenue, Compton

## SYNOPSIS

On Tuesday, August 18, 2018, an Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Force and Shooting Rollout Team comprised of Lieutenant Vincent Carter, Sergeant Steven Johnson and Sergeant Calvin Mah, responded to an on-duty non-hit shooting in the city of Compton, involving Compton Station Deputy

Lieutenant Carter ensured the Compton Station Watch Commander, Lieutenant John Wargo, took reasonable steps to ensure the involved parties and witnesses did not discuss the incident amongst themselves, or with uninvolved persons, prior to being interviewed by the assigned investigators.

Additionally, Lieutenant Carter ensured Lieutenant Wargo knew the aforementioned parties should not collectively consult with their attorney or representative. Lieutenant Carter confirmed the involved personnel and witness personnel were gathered in the company of a supervisor until they provided a statement to the assigned investigators.

Detectives and and another and another and assumed control of the criminal investigation. For further information, refer to the supplemental reports under file number 918-11704-2826-151 [EXHIBIT A].

#### SUMMARY

On August 17, 2018, at 2310 hours, Deputy and Deputy and Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar were conducting a traffic stop of the driver of a black Honda Civic on Myrrh Street near Holly Avenue, in the city of Compton.

A red Jeep Cherokee occupied by several male Black adults drove west on Myrrh Street past Deputies and Ruiz-Aguilar in an erratic manner. The suspicious vehicle (Jeep) accelerated to approximately 40 miles per hour (mph), exceeding the residential speed limit. The vehicle conducted an unsafe north turn onto Pannes Avenue and continued out of view.
Deputies and Ruiz-Aguilar terminated their existing traffic stop and attempted to locate the suspect's vehicle. At approximately 2315 hours, Deputies (passenger) and Ruiz-Aguilar (driver) were driving east on Rosecrans Avenue in their patrol vehicle, when they observed the suspect's vehicle traveling south on Bradfield Avenue from Rosecrans Avenue.
Deputies and Ruiz-Aguilar followed the suspect's vehicle from a distance of about 40-50 yards. The suspect's vehicle continued driving at an excessive speed (40-50 mph), as it turned west on Saunders Street, south on Essay Avenue and east onto Pixley Street. The suspect's vehicle nearly collided with several vehicles parked along the curbline. When the suspect's vehicle failed to stop at a stop sign on Pixley Street at Bradfield Avenue, Deputies and Ruiz-Aguilar elected to conduct a traffic stop.
Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar activated their patrol vehicle's lights and sirens near the intersection of Pixley Street and Bradfield Avenue; however, the suspect's vehicle did not yield. Instead, the suspect's vehicle continued east on Pixley Street toward Thorson Avenue.
Deputies and Ruiz-Aguilar initiated a pursuit of the vehicle which they believed to be operated by a reckless, impaired driver. Deputy broadcasted radio traffic of their pursuit of a reckless DUI vehicle on the for Dispatch Channel.
IAB NOTE:
After traveling 400-500 yards for approximately 20 seconds, the pursuit terminated when the suspect's vehicle collided into the curb at 900 North Thorson Avenue.

The suspect's vehicle came to rest on the front lawn of the property as Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar positioned their patrol vehicle approximately 20 feet to its rear. Deputy

male Black suspect standing in front of the suspect vehicle. This suspect then ran east through the property at 900 North Thorson Avenue, and out of view.

Shepherd, exiting the suspect's vehicle from the driver's window. Deputy shouted commands for Suspect Shepherd to stop moving and to remain in the vehicle. However, Suspect Shepherd ignored the commands, exited the vehicle and, with his right hand, reached for a silver handgun tucked in his front waistband. Suspect Shepherd then turned to face Deputy
Fearing for his life and the life of his partner, Deputy fired two rounds from his Department-issued 9mm Smith & Wesson M&P firearm at Suspect Shepherd. The rounds missed Suspect Shepherd who also ran east through the property at 900 North Thorson Avenue, and out of view.
Both deputies took cover behind their patrol vehicle; Deputy transmitted emergent radio traffic advising he had been in a, He requested the assistance of a sergeant, additional units, air support as well as the establishment of a containment for the outstanding suspects.
IAB NOTE:
Within minutes, Sergeant Cain and additional personnel arrived on-scene. Sergeant Cain established a contact/arrest team which utilized a felony traffic stop tactic to effect a search or to clear the suspect's vehicle. The driver, Suspect Trayvon Douglas, and a passenger, were detained without incident.
Special Enforcement Bureau's Canine Services Detail (CSD) Unit 240K97, Deputy Adam Stoll , located Suspect Shepherd five blocks east of the incident location, at 14428 Cookacre Street, Compton.
IAB NOTE: For further information on CSD's arrest of Suspect Shepherd, see FO 2464956 authored by Sergeant William Murphy,
Neither the fourth male Black suspect nor the Suspect Shepherd's firearm was recovered during the incident.
INVESTIGATION

#### INVESTIGATION

IAB investigators responded to Compton Station and participated in a walkthrough of the incident conducted by Compton Station OSS investigators. A canvass for witnesses to the incident was conducted to no avail.

IAB NOTE: IAB investigators retrieved security video footage from Compton OSS Detective of

Suspect Shepherd running through the property at Butler Avenue, Compton [EXHIBIT B]. The footage was obtained from the owner of the residence,

IAB investigators retrieved reports, **[EXHIBIT A]**, written by personnel on-scene and interviewed Suspects Shepherd and Douglas, and Witness

## INVOLVED EMPLOYEE AND WORK HISTORY

	, Deputy Sheriff,
Central Patrol Division	
Compton Station	

**Work History** 

Date of Employment: June 6, 2007

Date Assigned to Patrol/Compton: Date Completed Patrol Training:

Prior Shooting Incidents:

Prior Founded Force Incidents:



## **Equipment Worn On Person**

Deputy was wearing a Class A uniform, including a Sam Browne duty belt. The equipment on his duty belt included: handcuffs, Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, expandable baton, Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm semi-automatic firearm, swivel firearm holster, three fully loaded Department-issued magazines, Taser X26, handheld radio and keys.

# SUSPECTS' INFORMATION

Jahshay Shepherd - Male, Black, DOB: March 3, 1990, 5'07",140 lbs,

The Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System (CCHRS) revealed Suspect Shepherd had no felony or misdemeanor convictions. Suspect Shepherd's CCHRS Report was submitted as **[EXHIBIT C]**.

Trayvon Douglas - Male, Black, DOB: November 17, 1995, 5'11", 160 lbs,

The CCHRS revealed Suspect Douglas had one felony conviction

Suspect Douglas' CCHRS Report was submitted as [EXHIBIT C].

#### SUSPECT'S INJURIES

Suspects Shepherd and Douglas were not injured as a result of the non-hit shooting.

# **DEPUTY PERSONNEL INJURIES**

None.

#### PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Evidence was documented by Scientific Services Bureau; refer to EXHIBIT D.

All physical evidence was photographed, documented, and collected by Forensic Identification Specialists Danielle Tiesma, Incident photographs are included in this case as **EXHIBIT E**. The overall scene was additionally photographed and sketched by Forensic Identification Specialist Gloria Aldaba, Senior Criminalist Anny Wu, Conducted a function test on Deputy

IAB NOTE: Both casings from Deputy expended rounds were located and photographed onscene by Scientific Services Bureau personnel. The expended rounds were not recovered.

#### **ROUND COUNT**

IAB Investigators responde	d to Compton St	ation to conduct a	round count of	
Deputy	's duty weapon.	On August 18, 20	18, 0457 hours, t	he
round count was conducted	and audio reco	rded. Deputy		
rendered his duty weapon	(Smith and Wess	son M&P 9mm, sen	ni-automatic	
firearm, serial #HUL	safe. Deputy	's	duty weapon	
contained one unexpended	round (bullet) in	the weapon's char	mber and 15	
unexpended rounds in the	weapon's magaz	tine (17 round capa	icity magazine).	
Deputy	also carried two	17 round magazin	es on his duty be	elt;
both magazines were at ca	pacity.			

#### INVESTIGATOR'S OBSERVATIONS

Approximately two hours elapsed from the shooting to IAB Investigator's observations and walk through of the shooting location. The area of the shooting was a residential north/south street with operative street lights.

Scientific Services Bureau was on-scene and photographed the incident. The scene was described in detail by Forensic Identification Specialist Aldaba in her

observations.
WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY
Smith and Wesson, model M&P, 9mm semi-automatic firearm serial #HUL  Deputy semi-automatic firearm serial #HUL  [Miscellaneous Documents, Shooting Records].
PROPERTY DAMAGE
Shrubbery and masonry damage on the front lawn of 900 North Thorson Avenue, caused by the suspect's vehicle which sustained front end damage. Deputy s bullet strike(s) caused marks on the cinderblock wall bordering the north property line at 900 North Thorson Avenue.
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS AND CHARGES FILED
The criminal investigation of this incident was investigated by Compton OSS Detective
LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS
The incident occurred in a residential area with street lighting during the night time with clear skies.
RADIO TRAFFIC
Internal Affairs Bureau Investigators reviewed Sheriff's Communications Center's (SCC) radio traffic associated with the incident. When the non-hit shooting occurred, the incident was coordinated over the SCC Dispatch Channel Personnel utilized the frequency during their operation at the command post to coordinate resources. The radio traffic is contained on one compact disc [EXHIBIT F]. The following is a brief synopsis of those transmissions:
Dispatch Channel
23:18:17 Hours – Deputy requests the conducts a radio broadcast advising their pursuit of a reckless DUI vehicle.

diagrams. Her description of the scene was consistent with IAB Investigator's

- 23:19:09 Hours Deputy updates his location as 900 N. Thorson Avenue and requests units set up a containment of two fleeing suspects.

  23:19:18 Hours Deputy advising a just occurred.
- 23:19:29 Hours Deputy advises all deputies are accounted for.
- 23:19:36 Hours Air-24 commences to set up a containment.
- 23:19:48 Hours Unknown Compton unit commences to set up a containment.
- 23:20:37 Hours SCC adds Century Station units to the
- 23:20:49 Hours 280WS responding
- 23:22:00 Hours Unknown Compton unit advises a contact team will be doing a "call out" of the suspect's vehicle.
- 23:22:15 Hours Deputy advises the contact team was "calling out" a suspect hidden under the east side of the suspect's vehicle.
- 23:22:30 Hours Deputy and advises one of the two fleeing suspects was a male Black wearing a white t-shirt.
- 23:22:48 Hours Air-24 advises units to contain Harris Avenue south of Rosecrans Boulevard.
- 23:23:14 Hours Unknown Compton unit advises the resident at 14408 Butler Avenue reported seeing a suspect running east from his property.
- 23:23:42 Hours SCC advises "Fire" (paramedics) are staging.
- 23:24:40 Hours SCC advises "K-9" is enroute to the incident.
- 23:26:53 Hours Air-24 requests a unit to contain Saunders Street at White Avenue.
- 23:27:04 Hours 280S requests a break in all radio traffic.
- 23:27:32 Hours Deputy and advises the contact team is detaining one suspect at the target location.
- 23:28:25 Hours Air-24 requests units contain Rosecrans Boulevard from Harris Avenue to Atlantic Avenue.

23:29:38 Hours – Deputy advises two suspects are in custody and two suspects are outstanding.
23:35:41 Hours - Deputy requests a
23:35:41 Hours – SCC advises all units to switch over to is dropped.
FORCE USED BY DEPUTY
Deputy fired two (2) rounds from his Department-issued firearm.
STATEMENTS
The following narratives are intended only as a synopsis of the interviews. Additional information and precise wording may be obtained by reviewing the digitally audio recorded interviews and verbatim transcriptions.
INVOLVED EMPLOYEE DEPUTY
On September 11, 2018, Deputy was interviewed by IAB Sergeants Steven Johnson and Calvin Mah. He was interviewed with his representative, Attorney Maureen Okwuosa. The interview was conducted at the IAB Office in the city of Commerce.
On August 17, 2018, at 2310 hours, Deputy (passenger) stated he and his partner, Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar (driver) were conducting at traffic stop of a black Honda civic on Myrrh Street near Holly Avenue.
As Deputy walked the detained driver of the Honda to their patrol vehicle, a "swerving" red Jeep Cherokee (suspect's vehicle) drove past them, west on Myrrh Street. The suspect's vehicle, occupied by four male Black adults, nearly struck a parked vehicle, as it continued to traverse the "narrow" street.
Deputy said he and Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar decided to terminate their existing traffic stop of the Honda in an effort to contact the suspect's vehicle. Deputy saw the suspect's vehicle execute an unsafe turn north on Pannes Avenue, as it drove out of view.
After searching the area for several minutes, Deputy saw the suspect's vehicle traveling south on Bradfield Avenue from Rosecrans Avenue at approximately 40 mph. The vehicle continued through a residential area at an excessive speed, as it turned west on Saunders Street and south on Essay Avenue, nearly colliding with parked vehicles.

As the suspect's vehicle traveled east on Pixley Street, it drove through a stop sign (at Bradfield Avenue) without stopping. Deputy stated the and Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar formed the opinion the operator of the suspect's vehicle drove erratically, as though he were under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. Deputy and Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar coordinated amongst one another to conduct a traffic stop of the suspect's vehicle and if the vehicle failed to yield, they would initiate a vehicle pursuit.
In an attempt to conduct a traffic stop of the suspect's vehicle, Deputy said he and Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar activated the lights and sirens of their patrol vehicle near Pixley Street and Bradfield Avenue. The suspect's vehicle, which was approximately 40 yards in front of their patrol vehicle, did not stop; it continued east on Pixley Street.
Deputy broadcast they were in pursuit of a reckless DUI vehicle, along with the suspect's vehicle description and direction of travel. Within a "few seconds" or "400-500 yards," the pursuit terminated when the suspect's vehicle collided into the curb at 900 North Thorson Avenue. The suspect's vehicle came to rest, facing northeast, on the front lawn of the property. For Deputy see EXHIBIT G, a Google map of the incident location.
As Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar positioned their patrol vehicle behind the suspect's vehicle, Deputy saw a male Black suspect run east through the property and over a fence at 900 North Thorson Avenue. Suspect Shepherd exited the driver's window and grabbed hold of a silver semi-automatic handgun tucked in his waistband as he attempted to face Deputy
Fearing for his life, Deputy  Department-issued 9mm Smith & Wesson M&P firearm toward Suspect Shepherd, from a distance of "five to seven yards." Deputy  missed Suspect Shepherd whose backdrop was a cinder block wall. Suspect Shepherd then ran east through the property and over a fence at 900 North Thorson Avenue. Deputies  and Ruiz-Aguilar took cover to the rear of their patrol vehicle while broadcasting via the had just been in a deputy-involved shooting.
Deputy was uncertain if the grip-activated Surefire light on his handgun illuminated during the firing of his two rounds. However, the headlamps of their patrol vehicle were positioned toward the driver side of the suspect's vehicle and provide ample lighting. The patrol vehicle's spots lights were not utilized during the incident.

#### SUSPECT JAHSHAY SHEPHERD

On August 18, 2018, Suspect Shepherd was interviewed by IAB Sergeants Steven Johnson and Calvin Mah. The interview was conducted at Compton Station.

Suspect Shepherd told IAB investigators he did not possess a weapon but admitted to exiting the vehicle as he heard one gunshot. He had no knowledge of where the round was aimed. Suspect Shepherd believed he was detained by deputies because he fled from the incident.

He refused to discuss how he knew the driver or the passenger and other pertinent details from the incident.

### SUSPECT TRAYVON DOUGLAS

On August 18, 2018, Suspect Douglas was interviewed by IAB Sergeants Steven Johnson and Calvin Mah. The interview was conducted at Compton Station.

Suspect Douglas told IAB investigators he was asleep in suspect's vehicle but somehow ended up outside of it on the ground where deputies located him. He heard police gunshots and became scared. He was uncertain who or what was the target of the rounds.

Suspect Douglas stated he had nothing to say since he knew nothing of what happened during the incident.

#### EMPLOYEE WITNESS DEPUTY DANIEL RUIZ-AGUILAR

On September 11, 2018, Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar was interviewed by IAB Sergeants Steven Johnson and Calvin Mah. He was interviewed with his representative, Attorney Maureen Okwuosa. The interview was conducted at the IAB Office in the city of Commerce. On August 17, 2018, at 2300 hours, Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar (driver) stated he and (passenger) were standing outside their patrol vehicle, conducting a traffic stop on Myrrh Street, east of Holly Avenue. They had detained the operator of the vehicle in the backseat of their patrol vehicle. During the traffic stop, a red Jeep Cherokee (suspect's vehicle) occupied by several male Black adults, drove west on Myrrh Street, past Deputies Ruiz-The suspect's vehicle accelerated to a high rate of speed, approximately 40 miles per hour (mph). Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar and Deputy decided to terminate their current traffic stop in an effort to conduct a traffic stop of the suspect's vehicle. The suspect's vehicle conducted an unsafe turn north on Pannes Avenue, east on Laurel Street and continued out of view. After approximately five minutes of searching the vicinity for the suspect's vehicle, Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar and Deputy saw the suspect's vehicle traveling in excess of the residential speed limit, south on Bradfield Avenue from Rosecrans Avenue. They attempted to catch up to the suspect's vehicle to conduct a traffic stop. However, it continued at a high rate of speed (45-50 mph), going west on Saunders Street, south on Essey Avenue and east on Pixley Street, as it traveled through a stop sign at Bradfield Avenue, without stopping. Their patrol vehicle followed approximately 50 yards behind the suspect's vehicle. For Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar's depiction of his patrol vehicle's route of travel, see EXHIBIT G, a Google map of the incident location. Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar activated his vehicle's lights and sirens near the intersection of Bradfield Avenue and Pixley Street. Deputy broadcasted their pursuit of the "reckless deuce" vehicle and requested an emergent response of a sergeant, two additional units and an airship. The transmission was conducted over the Dispatch frequency. The pursuit terminated "seconds" later when the suspect's vehicle collided into the curb at 900 North Thorson Avenue. Deputy Ruiz-Aquilar stopped the patrol vehicle approximately 10-15 yards behind the suspect's vehicle and saw a male Black suspect fleeing the incident as he ran eastbound and out of view, through 900 North Thorson Avenue. Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar saw Suspect Shepherd exiting the driver's window while

Deputy shouted commands for Suspect Shepherd to stop

moving and to remain in the vehicle. Suspect Shepherd did not comply but instead exited the suspect's vehicle through the driver's window, as Deputy shouted, Simultaneously, Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar saw Suspect Shepherd face him while reaching, with his right hand, for a chrome firearm tucked into the front waistband.
IAB NOTE:
Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar heard Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar un-holstered his Department-issued 9mm Smith & Wesson M&P firearm; however, by the time he acquired his firearm sights onto Suspect Shepherd, he already fled eastbound and out of view, through 900 North Thorson Avenue.
When additional units arrived on-scene, including Sergeant Cain, a plan was formulated amongst personnel, to approach the suspect vehicle. Prior to their approach, Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar saw a passenger, Island Isla
After clearing the inside of the suspect's vehicle, the team of deputies discovered the suspect driver, Trayvon Douglas, lying in front of the vehicle. He was also detained without incident.
An additional unit detained Suspect Shepherd whom Deputy Ruiz-Aguilar positively identified as the person he previously saw exhibit a firearm in his presence. The fourth male Black suspect was not located.
EMPLOYEE WITNESS SERGEANT PAULETTE CAIN
On February 27, 2019, Sergeant Cain was interviewed by IAB Sergeants Steven

On February 27, 2019, Sergeant Cain was interviewed by IAB Sergeants Stever Johnson and Amber Veatch. She was interviewed with her representative, Teresa O'Neil. The interview was conducted at the IAB Office in the city of Commerce.

Sergeant Cain stated she was the field sergeant on PM shift at the time of the non-hit shooting at 900 North Thorson Avenue. She was at Compton Station when she heard emergent radio traffic regarding Deputies and Ruiz-Aguilar (Unit 282D) who were in pursuit of a reckless DUI driver. Approximately thirty seconds later, Unit 282D broadcasted a deputy-involved shooting had just occurred.

Sergeant Cain responded to the location within two minutes of the broadcasts. Upon her arrival, she saw Deputies and Ruiz-Aguilar

standing near their patrol vehicle, detaining the suspect's vehicle at gunpoint.  Deputies and Ruiz-Aguilar told her there were two outstanding suspects that fled from the suspect's vehicle. Sergeant Cain stated she checked on the well-being of the involved personnel and obtained information from Deputy that he fired two rounds toward a suspect.
Sergeant Cain coordinated a felony traffic stop with a team of deputies to clear the suspect's vehicle of additional suspects. She assigned a deputy to each of the following positions: verbal commands, radio, shield and a less-lethal weapon She stated her less-lethal force options were, "(Whether) it was a taser and a stunbag." [CAIN INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT, page 8]. Additionally, Sergeant Cain assigned two deputies to go "hands-on" as an arrest team.
Prior to their approach of the suspect's vehicle, Sergeant Cain observed a suspect (later identified as Witness laying on the ground near its front passenger side. The suspect complied when ordered by deputies to walk backwards toward them; he was taken into custody without incident.
When her team approached the suspect's vehicle to clear it for any remaining occupants, they discovered an additional suspect (Trayvon Douglas) hiding on the ground in front of the vehicle approximately five feet from the team. Witness complied with deputies' commands and was taken into custody without incident. For Sergeant Cain's depiction of the suspect vehicle's position, see <b>EXHIBIT G</b> , a Google map of the incident location.
After Deputy re-holstered and maintained his weapon, Sergeant Cain ensured he was sequestered prior to speaking with IAB investigators. Sergeant Cain ensured all evidentiary items on-scene remained undisturbed, including expended casings and vehicles.
After conducting a public safety advisement based on the information she obtained, Sergeant Cain ensured responding personnel canvassed the area for witnesses and video.
NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESS
On August 18, 2018, Witness was interviewed by IAB Sergeants Steven Johnson and Calvin Mah. The interview was conducted at Compton Station.
After leaving Gonzalez Park, Witness rode in the suspect's vehicle (a burgundy Jeep) which Suspect Douglas drove. He and Suspect Douglas were the sole occupants of the vehicle. Witness could not remember how he knew Suspect Douglas. Witness fell asleep in the backseat. They intended to return to their home in Redlands, California.

When the suspect's vehicle approached the front of a house, Witness heard police gunshots projected toward his direction. He was uncertain why gunshots were being fired. Witness was later detained by deputies.